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REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the final Official Action mailed 16 March 2005. Reconsideration of the application in light of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 8-10 and 41-44 are cancelled herein. Claims 3, 6 and 28-31 were cancelled previously. Claims 11-27 were withdrawn previously under a Restriction Requirement and have been cancelled herein without prejudice or disclaimer. Thus, claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 32-40 and 45-49 are currently pending for the further action.

The canceled claims are cancelled herein to expedite the allowance of this application. Applicant reserves the right to file any number of continuation or divisional applications to the cancelled claims or any other subject matter described in the present application.

Allowed Claims:

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner allowed claims 32-40 and 45-49. Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the allowance of these claims.

Prior Art:

With regard to the prior art, the outstanding Office Action rejected claims 1, 2, 4, 5 and 31 as anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) by U.S. Patent No. 6,166,919 to Nicolici et al. ("Nicolici"). This rejection is moot as to claim 31, which was cancelled in Applicant's previous amendment. Alternatively, claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 7 was rejected as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over the teachings of Nicolici taken alone. For at least the following reasons, these rejections are respectfully traversed.

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Claim 1 as amended herein recites:

A protective cover for a pin connector of a backplane, said cover comprising:
at least one connector having receptacles for receiving pins of a pin connector
of a backplane; and
a planar member extending from said at least one connector,
wherein said at least one connector and said planar member are integrally
formed of a single material.
(emphasis added).

In contrast, Nicolici fails to teach or suggest the claimed protective cover that includes at least one connector and a planar member integrally formed of *a single material*. In response, the Office Action argues that it "would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to form the connector and the planar member from the same material for efficiency and economical reasons." (Action of 3/16/05, p. 4). This is incorrect and unreasonable given the clear teachings of Nicolici.

Nicolici is teaching a functioning electronic device with socket connectors (106) that are connected to a printed circuit board (100) to electrically interconnect the circuit board (100) with a backplane. To so function, the connectors (106) taught by Nicolici must include both conductive and insulating materials. Thus, more than a "single" material is used just in the connectors (106). The printed circuit board (100) would likewise comprise several different materials and would *not* be made of the same materials as the connectors (106).

One of skill in the art would never consider forming the printed circuit board (100) and the socket connectors (106) integrally from a single material. To do so, would be to prevent the connectors (106) and printed circuit board (100) from functioning as the circuit Nicolici intended. **"If the proposed modification would render the prior art invention being modified unsatisfactory for its intended purpose, then there is no suggestion or**

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motivation to make the proposed modification. *In re Gordon*, 733 F.2d 900, 221 USPQ 1125 (Fed. Cir. 1984)." M.P.E.P. § 2143.01.

In contrast, Applicant is claiming a cover for protecting the pins of a backplane that need not include any electrical connections of any kind. Thus, the cover claimed by Applicant can profitably be formed from a single material as an integrated member. The material can be a purely non-conductive material, for example, plastic.

Thus, Nicolici fails to teach or suggest the claimed protective cover that includes at least one connector and a planar member integrally formed of a single material. "A claim is anticipated [under 35 U.S.C. § 102] only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 2 U.S.P.Q.2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987) (emphasis added). See M.P.E.P. § 2131. "To establish prima facie obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. *In re Royka*, 490 F.2d 981, 180 USPQ 580 (CCPA 1974)." M.P.E.P. § 2143.03. Accord. M.P.E.P. § 706.02(j). Because Nicolici fails to teach or suggest all the features of claim 1, the rejections under §§ 102 and 103 of claims 1, 2, 5 and 7 based on Nicolici should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claims 8-10 and 41-44 were rejected as unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over the combined teachings of Nicolici and U.S. Patent No. 4,197,945 to Sherwood ("Sherwood). While Applicant continues to traverse this rejection for the reasons of record, this rejection is rendered by the cancellation herein of claims 8-10 and 41-44.

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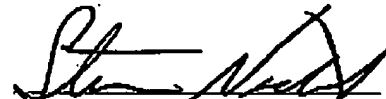
Conclusion:

Entry of the present amendment is proper and requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 because the amendment merely cancels rejected claims and, therefore, places the application in better form for allowance or appeal. Therefore, entry of the present amendment is respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, the present application is thought to be clearly in condition for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration of the application in light of these remarks is courteously solicited. If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions which could place this application in even better form, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

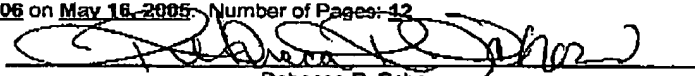
Respectfully submitted,

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<p style="text-align: center;">CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION</p> <p>I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office facsimile number <u>703-872-9306</u> on <u>May 16, 2005</u>. Number of Pages: <u>12</u></p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Rebecca R. Schow</p>
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